

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of March 24, 2008 is respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, claims 8-22 have been amended, claims 1-7 have been cancelled and new claims 23-38 have been added. Thus, claims 8-38 are currently pending in the application. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

The entire specification and abstract have been reviewed and revised. Due to the number of revisions, the amendments to the specification and abstract have been incorporated into the attached substitute specification and abstract. For the Examiner's benefit, a marked-up copy of the specification and abstract indicating the changes made thereto is also enclosed. No new matter has been added by the revisions. Entry of the substitute specification is thus respectfully requested.

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 8 and 11-15 contained allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In this regard, it is noted that claims 8, 11 and 13-15 have each been amended so as to be in independent form, as well as to include all of the limitations of base claim 1. Therefore, in view of the Examiner's indication of the allowability of claims 8, 11 and 13-15, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 8, 11 and 13-15 are clearly in condition for allowance.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 01035977. Further, on pages 3-4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 01035977. However, as indicated above, claims 1-7 have been cancelled, and that claims 8, 11 and 13-15 have each been amended so as to be in independent form, as well as to include all of the limitations of base claim 1. Therefore, in view of the Examiner's indication of the allowability of claims 8, 11 and 13-15, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 8, 11 and 13-15 are clearly patentable over the prior art of record.

Further, all other claims remaining in the application depend from one of independent claims 8, 11 and 13-15. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 8, 11 and 13-15, as well as claims 9, 10, 12 and 16-38 which depend therefrom, are clearly allowable over

the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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